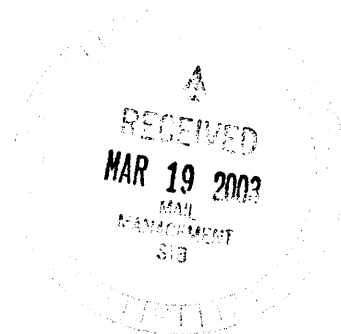


EI-212

Freeborn & Peters

March 13, 2003

Victoria Rutson  
Chief, SEA  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001



*Attorneys at Law*

311 South Wacker Drive  
Suite 3000  
Chicago, Illinois  
60606-6677  
Tel 312.360.6000

Brian Nettles  
Paralegal  
Direct 312.360.6336  
Fax 312.360.6596  
bnettl@  
freebornpeters.com

*Chicago*

*Springfield*

**Re: *Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 403X);  
The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment  
of Wichita, Kansas Trackage and between Wichita and Valley Center,  
Kansas***

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Enclosed are responses I received from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and Natural Resources Conservation Service to the notice that was mailed out to various agencies on February 12, 2003 in regards to the above-mentioned matter. I am forwarding these to your attention in the event that the agency did not respond to you directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Nettles".

Brian Nettles

# KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

March 5, 2003

Mr. Michael A. Smith  
Representing - Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway  
311 S. Wacker Drive Suite 3000  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6677

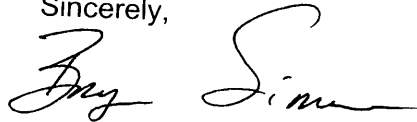
Ref: D2.0401A  
Sedgwick  
BNSF Abandonment  
Track: 20000697

Dear Mr. Smith:

We have re-reviewed the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) Environmental and Historic Report, concerning the nearly 17 miles of railroad line proposed for abandonment in Sedgwick County, Kansas and its possible impacts upon the environment.

We concur with all the initial findings and responses and have no additional comments or objections towards the completion of this project.

Sincerely,



Bryan R. Simmons, Aquatic / Terrestrial Ecologist  
Environmental Services Section

xc: Region 4, Sorensen



**United States Department of Agriculture**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

9 West 28th  
Hutchinson, KS 67502-3453

Phone: 620-663-3501  
FAX: 620-663-3866  
[www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov)

March 3, 2003

Mr. Michael A. Smith  
Senior Counsel  
311 South Wacker Drive  
Suite 3000  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6677

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Environmental/Historical Report for the abandonment of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company line between M.P. 494.22 and 505.20 in and near Wichita, Kansas, and M.P. 515.23 and M.P. 509.30 between Wichita and Valley Center, Kansas.

The Farmland Protection Policy Act procedures have already been completed for this project. In the Environmental/Historical Report that was sent, following the Index Tab "C," a letter to Mr. John A. Sims dated December 5, 2000, was completed noting this project does not fall under the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jess F. Crockford", is written over the typed name and title.

JESS F. CROCKFORD  
Assistant State Conservationist

Cc:

Harold L. Klaege, State Conservationist, NRCS, Salina, Kansas  
Rodney D. Egbarts, Soil Conservationist, NRCS, Salina, Kansas  
Robert K. Stutzman District Conservationist, NRCS, Wichita, Kansas  
Susan Erlenwein, Conservation District Manager, Sedgwick County CD, Wichita, Kansas